

Remarks

Claims 1-34 and 44-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 35-43 have been cancelled. Claim 48 has been added to claim the method of detecting mycoplasma in insect/cell cultures. Support for this claim is provided for example by the information in Table 1, identifying insects as a common habitat of mycoplasmas, and the reference to arthropods is on page 2, lines 7-9 of the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action requires restriction between what are asserted to be two (2) separate and distinct inventions defined in the Office Action as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-34, drawn to a method of detecting the presence of contaminating mycoplasma, classified in class 435, subclass 17;

Group II: Claims 35-47, drawn to a kit for use in the detection of mycoplasma contamination, classified in class 435, subclass 287.1

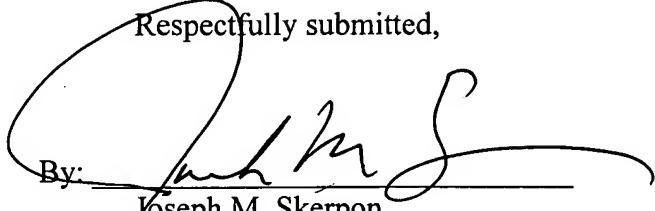
In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect the invention of **Group I**. Applicants also wish to point out that claims 44-47 and new claim 48 are not dictated to the kits of Group II, but rather embrace the method of Group I. Inclusion of claims 44-48 in the elected invention is therefore respectfully requested.

Finally, in response to the requirement for an election of species, requiring the election of both a type of MS reagent and a type of cell, applicants elect acetyl phosphate as the reagent and Vero as the cell type. It is believed that claims 1-14, 17-27, 29, 32-34 and 44-46 read on the elected invention.

Consideration and formal allowance of the elected claims thus are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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